

## Children's Books

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acquainted with the Old Testament and interested in it.

There is still one more "Life of Jesus" (Stokes), told for children, this one by Helen Ward Banks, with illustrations in color and black and white by Elizabeth Curtis and Florence Choate. The great story is told in simple narrative form with

tale that has beauty in it. There are delicately colored drawings for illustrations. The last of the books in this special group is a small volume called "A Book of Prayers for Boys," and has been compiled by Colin Campbell Clements. Many great names are signed to these various prayers, such as Dr. Arnold of Rugby, George Washington, Phillips Brooks, Henry Ward Beecher, Emerson, Stevenson, and contemporary thinkers, writers and preachers. It is a beautiful collection of prayers, whether

the book is complete, interesting and simple. Nothing better of the kind exists and every girl will be the better for having it on her special shelf. Next is "The Land of Health," by two experts on health, Grace T. Hallock and C.-E. A. Winslow, with a chapter on exercise by Walter Camp. The aim of the book is to make health interesting to children; it is therefore told in story form, with a small boy and girl as hero and heroine, Dame Nature as a sort of fairy woman, and magic adventures and transformations, all of which serve to teach lessons of hygiene and good health. It is really successful in making the subject amusing and interesting as well as convincing. (Charles E. Merrill Co.) Last of the three is "Life: How It Comes," by Stephen Reid-Heyman, (Mrs. Lawrence Parsons, M. D.) which tells in clear and simple style the facts of sex. The lessons begin with talks on the three kingdoms of nature, move on to insects, plants, the lower forms of life, birds and finally mammals. It is an excellent little book that amply and sanely fulfills its object.



From "The Boy Adventurers in the Forbidden Lands." By A. Hyatt Verrell. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

the old flavor maintained. All the episodes of Christ's life are included and the four Gospels have been used as the foundation.

In another vein is "Christmas Light," by Ethel Calvert Phillips, (Houghton Mifflin.) Here a pretty story is told of little Naomi, who went blind, but who visited the Christ-child and was cured. Later she gave away her pet donkey for the use of Mary in the flight into Egypt. A colorful, well-told

for boys or any one else. There is an introduction by Dr. Mather A. Abbott which touches on the spiritual side of boys, and there are biographical notes on the different contributors.

I shall end this article with the mention of three practical books. The first is intended for little girls, "Housekeeping, Cookery, Sewing," by Olive Hyde Foster. The author is an expert on her subject and

## Authors' Works and Their Ways

Mrs. Ella Boyce Kirk, clubwoman, educator and author, who has recently returned from France, where she was successfully treated by M. Emile Coue, has written a book telling of her experiences, entitled "My Pilgrimage to Coue," which has just been published by the American Library Service of New York city.

President Cleveland, according to ex-Ambassador Oscar S. Straus, whose "Under Four Administrations" has just been published by Houghton-Mifflin Company, had a strong leaning toward acting. One night after the theater, Mr. Straus says, "we had a supper of delicatessen and beer at home, which I knew he would like, and he amused us with several funny stories and mimicry. My wife remarked that he might have made a success on the stage, and he replied that his friend Joe Jefferson had often deplored his having missed that profession."

Barrett Willoughby, author of "Where the Sun Swings North" (Putnam's), which was reviewed in a recent issue of the book section, is not a man, although reviewers have referred to the author as "he." Barrett is the middle name of Mrs. Florence Barrett Willoughby, who was born and raised in Alaska.

Edward Simmons, the famous mural painter, whose memoirs, just published by Harpers, are reviewed elsewhere in this issue, confesses that breaking into print at his age has its inconveniences. "In fact," he says, "it is a bad thing to tell all you know in one book. A friend looking over my book the other day stopped and said in a frightened tone: 'But, Simmy, this is terrible. You have put in all of your pet stories. Don't you know that you will never be able to talk again?' Never be able to talk again! What an awful thing to contemplate! Half my life gone, as it were, with one swoop of my pen."

The new definitive edition of Mark Twain's works, which Gabriel Wells took over from the Harpers recently, is announced for immediate publication. The first eight volumes of the thirty-five which compose the edition will be brought out this month and the others at short intervals. The edition will be limited to 1,024 sets. It will include Albert Bigelow Paine's "Biography of Mark Twain" in four volumes and "Mark Twain's Letters" in two volumes. Each work will contain an introductory essay by such writers as E. V. Lucas, Arnold Bennett, Booth Tarkington, Meredith Nicholson, William Allen White, Gilbert K. Chesterton, Stephen Leacock, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Kate Douglas Wiggin and William Dean Howells.

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